

## Message Text

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47

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 COME-00 /064 W

----- 048931

R 190842Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2270

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

SINGAPORE 7728

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS:ASEAN

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN-ASEAN ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS

REF: A) STATE 204078 B) MANILA 12444

1. EMBASSY PRESUMES THAT CANBERRA CAN GIVE FULL REPLY TO INQUIRY ABOUT ANY ASEAN AUSTRALIAN ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS BUT HAS CONTACTED AUSTRALIAN MISSION HERE. EMBOFF SPOKE TO R.B. HINES, SENIOR TRADE COMMISSIONER, AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY, WHO SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT NOTHING SO FORMAL AS A PROPOSAL ON AUSTRALIAN ASEAN TALKS HAD OCCURRED. THERE HAVE BEEN VARIOUS PROPOSALS ORIGINATED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF ASEAN COUNTRIES FOR JOINT CONSULTATIONS WITH AUSTRALIA AS WELL AS WITH OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, BUT ASEAN AS AN ORGANIZATION HAS NEVER FORMALLY PROPOSED SUCH CONSULTATIONS.

3. HINES SAID THAT MESSAGES FROM GENEVA AND WASHINGTON OFTEN CREDIT ASEAN WITH A DEGREE OF COORDINATION ON ECONOMIC POLICY THAT JUST DOES NOT EXIST AND IS FAR FROM COMING

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INTO BEING. REPRESENTATIVES OF SINGAPORE, WHICH WOULD

PROBABLY GAIN MOST FROM ECONOMIC INTEGRATION, OFTEN GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT PROGRESS IS BEING MADE ON REGIONAL TRADE ARRANGEMENTS WHEN NO ONE ELSE SEES PROGRESS. SINCE SOUTHEAST ASIANS GENERALLY AVOID CONFRONTATION AND OFTEN TELL OTHERS WHAT THEY THINK THE LISTENER WANTS TO HEAR, OUTSIDERS OFTEN PERCEIVE MORE UNITY THAN REALLY EXISTS.

4. UNTIL ASEAN IS MUCH FURTHER ALONG THE ROAD TO AGREEMENT ON MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC POLICIES, HINES BELIEVES THAT THERE IS VERY LITTLE POINT IN CONSULTATION. ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN A FEW INSTANCES, SUCH AS IN TROPICAL PRODUCT NEGOTIATIONS, WHERE POLICIES OF INDIVIDUAL MEMBER GOVERNMENTS MAY BE INFLUENCED BY POLICIES OF ASEAN AS A WHOLE, THE EMBASSY IS INCLINED TO AGREE.  
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 AUG 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** saccheem  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
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**Reference:** 76 STATE 204078, 76 MANILA 12444  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** saccheem  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 12 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <12 MAY 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <14 SEP 2004 by saccheem>  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** AUSTRALIAN-ASEAN ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS  
**TAGS:** ECON, TH, ASEAN  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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